

"Sergeant Byron W. Norwood Post Office Building".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1001

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SERGEANT BYRON W. NORWOOD POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 301 South Heatherwilde Boulevard in Pflugerville, Texas, shall be known and designated as the "Sergeant Byron W. Norwood Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Sergeant Byron W. Norwood Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MARCHANT) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MARCHANT).

□ 1045

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1001.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GRAVES). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1001 is an important piece of legislation that names this Pflugerville, Texas, Post Office as the Sergeant Byron W. Norwood Post Office Building.

I am proud the House is considering this bill today because Sergeant Byron Norwood is, without question, an American hero.

Mr. Speaker, Sergeant Norwood grew up in Pflugerville, a small town outside of Austin, and enjoyed playing the trumpet in the high school jazz band and marching band. He was a star in several high school theater productions. After graduation, he joined the Marines, following in the footsteps of both of his grandfathers who served with the Marine Corps during World War II. He ultimately became a sergeant assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division in Camp Pendleton, California.

Mr. Speaker, Sergeant Norwood bravely served two tours of duty in Iraq. During his second tour he was tragically killed by a sniper in the Anbar province of Iraq on November 13 of 2004. In the trying days that followed, Byron's mother, Janet Norwood, wrote a letter to President Bush to say how dedicated her son was to his country. Mrs. Norwood said in the letter that in spite all that the family had been through, they still supported the war. Afterwards, the White House in-

vited Mr. and Mrs. Norwood to the State of the Union speech.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleague, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL), for introducing this legislation and seeing it to the floor today.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Committee on Government Reform, I am pleased to join my colleague in consideration of the H.R. 1001, legislation naming a U.S. postal facility in Pflugerville, Texas, after Sergeant Byron Norwood.

H.R. 1001 was introduced by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL) on March 1, 2005 and unanimously reported by our committee on April 13, 2005. The bill enjoys the support and cosponsorship of the entire Texas delegation.

Sergeant Byron W. Norwood died on November 13, 2004, as a result of enemy action in Fallujah. Sergeant Norwood was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, in Camp Pendleton in California before being deployed to Iraq.

Sergeant Norwood was recognized by the President posthumously during his State of the Union address for his bravery and sacrifice to our country. The President also recognized Sergeant Norwood's parents, Janet and Bill, for the tremendous grace they displayed in the wake of their son's death.

A native of Texas, Byron was well liked by his fellow soldiers because not only was he an exemplary soldier, but he was also a terrific person. He was described by members of his regiment as a person who was not afraid to show his emotions, and was always there to listen and lend support to his friends during difficult times.

Mr. Speaker, it is important that during times of war we take time to remember its human cost, that people as loving and caring as Sergeant Byron Norwood are sacrificing their lives to protect ours.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL) for introducing this legislation. It is a wonderful tribute to a great man and an extraordinary soldier. I urge swift adoption of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL).

Mr. MCCAUL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleague and fellow classmate, the gentleman from Coppell, Texas (Mr. MARCHANT), for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, this morning I rise in support of this bill which I introduced to name the Pflugerville Post Office after Marine Sergeant Byron Norwood.

I am honored to come before the House and the American people to tell

them of the sacrifice of the family and the heroics of a Marine who embodies all who are engaged in helping keep this world safe.

You may remember one of the high points of President Bush's State of the Union address is when he honored the memory of Sergeant Norwood, who was killed last November during the assault on Fallujah in Iraq.

There the President said, "We have said goodbye to some very good men and women who died for our freedom, and whose memory this Nation will honor forever. One name we honor is Marine Corps Sergeant Byron Norwood. Ladies and gentlemen, with grateful hearts we honor our military families represented here this evening by Sergeant Norwood's mom and dad, Janet and Bill Norwood."

The President read from a letter Byron's mother wrote to him. She said, "When Byron was home the last time, I said that I wanted to protect him like I had since he was born. He just hugged me and said, 'You've done your job, Mom. Now it's my turn to protect you.'"

He protected not only his mother, but the Nation.

President Bush honored Sergeant Norwood's parents, Bill and Janet, who stood up to represent all of the families who have found themselves paying the ultimate price for freedom. And we all remember the embrace between Janet and Safia from Iraq right here in the Chamber of this House, up there. It was truly the defining moment of the State of the Union.

The cameras panned towards the Norwoods seated behind First Lady Laura Bush. The Members of the Congress, the Cabinet and assembled dignitaries turned and recognized Mr. and Mrs. Norwood with applause. With the eyes of the Nation on the Norwoods, a woman seated next to Mrs. Bush named Safia, an Iraqi refugee and activist against Saddam Hussein's terrible regime, turned and embraced Mrs. Norwood. It was truly a remarkable moment of gratitude that was seen around the world. And it was one of the most emotional experiences in the long history of State of the Union speeches.

In some of the fiercest fighting since the fall of Saddam Hussein, Sergeant Norwood and his fellow Marines waged an assault to liberate Fallujah from the evil that impeded our efforts to free and liberate the people of Iraq. During the fighting, Sergeant Norwood found himself positioned outside of a house where seven of his fellow Marines were being held captive by the insurgents. A trained and experienced Marine, Norwood stormed the residence and freed his band of brothers from their captors. Tragically, during his efforts to liberate his buddies, Sergeant Norwood was mortally wounded.

But by his actions Sergeant Norwood embodied the verse found in the Gospel of John, Chapter 15:13, "Greater love

hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.”

Sergeant Byron Norwood loved his country, and we as a Nation can do something to honor the sacrifice he made in saving the lives of those seven Marines. Today I ask my colleagues’ support for legislation to name the post office in Pflugerville after Sergeant Byron Norwood.

When I approached Bill and Janet Norwood with the idea of naming the post office in Pflugerville after their son, they were humble; but they wanted to make sure that this bill would honor not only Byron but all of our fallen heroes, and today we can honor their request.

In a letter sent to me by Sergeant Norwood’s mother, Janet, they wrote a very compelling and powerful message to me. This is a picture of Sergeant Byron Norwood and she wrote to me, “Representative McCAUL, we wanted you to know how much we have appreciated your visits to our home. It was a pleasure to meet you and Linda and to be able to share more about Byron with you. Knowing that you and so many other Americans honor and respect his sacrifice helps greatly to ease our sorrows.

“Thank you also for the flag, the one that was flown over the Capitol on the day that Byron died, which will always have a special place in the beautiful display box with his other treasures from his Marine Corps service.

“He would be so amazed and so proud. The whole idea of naming the post office is such a stunning honor. One of the things we worried about was that people would soon forget about Byron. If your bill passes, that will never happen and that is such a great comfort.”

No, we will not forget about Byron and we will not forget about the other fallen heroes defending freedom. As with all the parents I have met with who have lost a loved one in this war, they all say the same thing, “Finish the job.”

We must realize that while this Federal building will bear his name, it will also stand as a symbol for all those who have died in the name of America’s freedom and security by showing the world Americans never forget their heroes. Today we can honor those heroes through Sergeant Byron Norwood by giving the post office in his hometown his name.

Mr. Speaker, naming the Pflugerville, Texas, Post Office for Marine Sergeant Byron Norwood is the very least we can do for the memory and the family whose son paid the ultimate sacrifice.

May God bless Janet and Bill Norwood and may He hold Byron in the palm of His hand.

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to be a cosponsor of House Resolution 1001 that honors Sergeant Byron Norwood. I

urge all Members to support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MARCHANT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1001.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING A NATIONAL WEEK OF HOPE IN COMMEMORATION OF THE 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE TERRORIST BOMBING IN OKLAHOMA CITY

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 184) recognizing a National Week of Hope in commemoration of the 10-year anniversary of the terrorist bombing in Oklahoma City.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 184

Whereas on April 19, 1995, at 9:02 a.m. central daylight time in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, America was attacked in one of the worst terrorist attacks on American soil, killing 168 and injuring more than 850 Americans;

Whereas this dastardly act of domestic terrorism affected thousands of families and horrified millions of people across the State of Oklahoma and the United States;

Whereas the people of Oklahoma and the United States responded to this tragedy through the remarkable efforts of local, State, and Federal law enforcement, fire, and emergency services, search and rescue teams from across the United States, public and private medical personnel, and thousands of volunteers from the community who saved lives, assisted the injured, comforted the bereaved, and provided meals and support to those who came to Oklahoma City to help those endangered or otherwise affected by this terrorist act;

Whereas the people of Oklahoma and the United States pledged themselves to create, build, and maintain a permanent national memorial to remember those who were killed, those who survived, and those changed forever;

Whereas the Oklahoma City National Memorial draws hundreds of thousands of visitors from around the world every year to the site of this tragic event in American history;

Whereas the Oklahoma City National Memorial brings comfort, strength, peace, hope, and serenity to the many visitors who come to the memorial and museum each year to remember and to learn about this tragic event;

Whereas the 10th anniversary of the terrorist bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, is on April 19, 2005; and

Whereas the Oklahoma City National Memorial will commemorate the anniversary of the terrorist bombing by recognizing the week of April 17–24, 2005, as the National Week of Hope, which will include a day of faith, a day of understanding, a day of remembrance, a day of sharing, a day of tolerance, a day of caring, and a day of inspiration, and the annual Oklahoma City Memorial Marathon, A Run to Remember: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) joins with all Americans to send best wishes and prayers to the families, friends, and neighbors of the 168 people killed in the terrorist bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building;

(2) thanks the thousands of first responders, rescue workers, medical personnel, and volunteers from the Oklahoma City community and from communities around the Nation who answered the call for help that April morning and in the days and weeks that followed;

(3) sends best wishes and thoughts to those injured in the bombing, and expresses gratitude for their recovery;

(4) resolves to stand with all Americans to promote the goals and mission established by the Oklahoma City National Memorial as stated in the following mission statement of the memorial: “We come here to remember those who were killed, those who survived, and those changed forever. May all who leave here know the impact of violence. May this memorial offer comfort, strength, peace, hope, and serenity.”;

(5) encourages Americans to observe a National Week of Hope—

(A) to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Oklahoma City bombing; and

(B) to allow each American to participate in an event each day of that week to teach a lesson that—

(i) hope can exist in the midst of political violence;

(ii) good endures in the world even among those who commit bad acts; and

(iii) there is a way to resolve differences other than by resorting to terrorism or violence;

(6) congratulates the people of Oklahoma City for making tremendous progress over the past decade and for demonstrating their steadfast commitment to such lessons; and

(7) applauds the people of Oklahoma City as they continue to persevere and to stand as a beacon to the rest of the Nation and the world attesting to the strength of goodness in overcoming evil wherever it arises.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MARCHANT) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MARCHANT).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 184.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this important resolution recognizes the National Week of Hope in commemoration of the 10th-year anniversary of the terrorist bombing in Oklahoma City.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. ISTOOK), the distinguished sponsor of House Resolution 184.

Mr. ISTOOK. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.